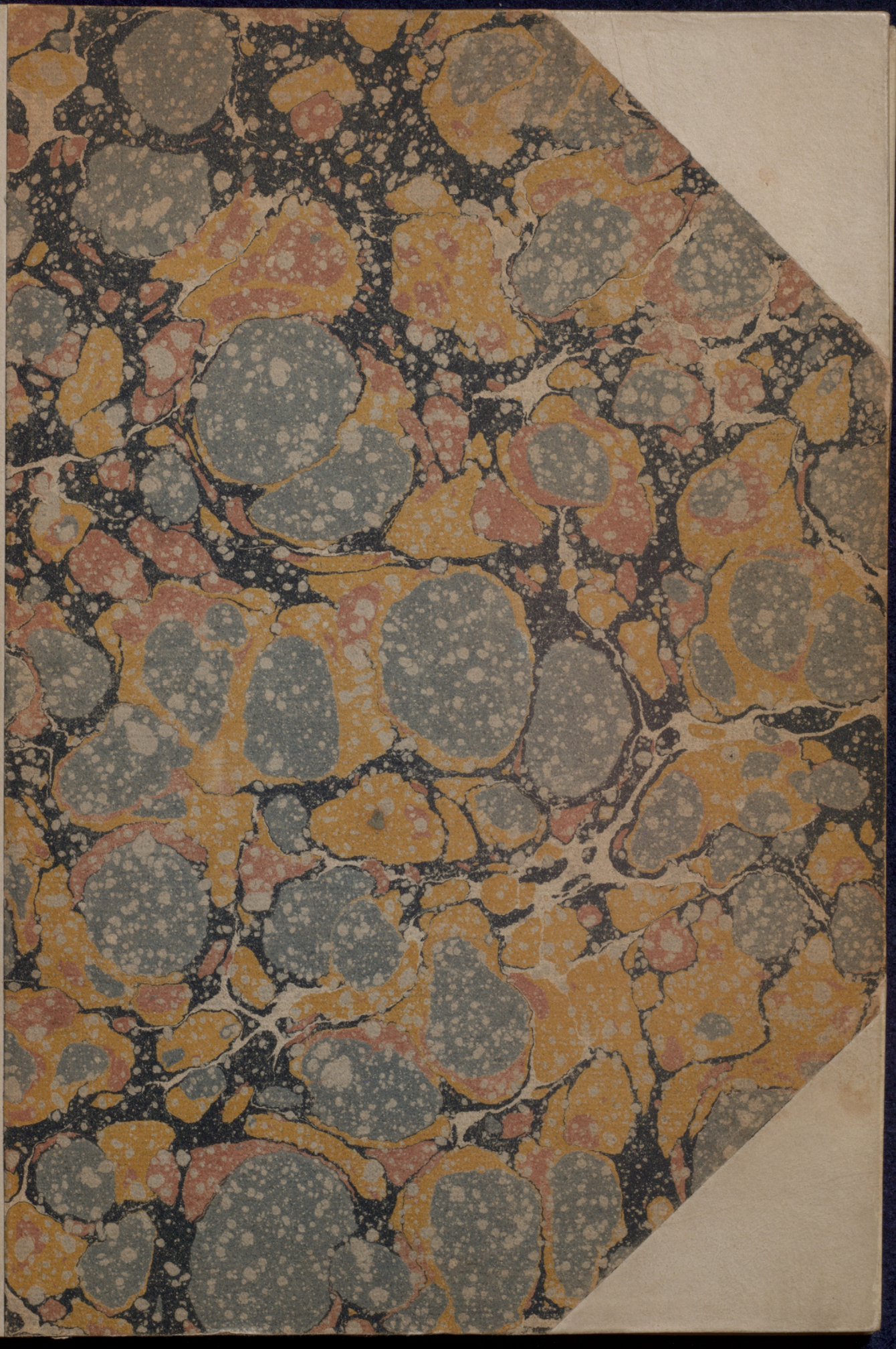

SIMPSON (Sir JAMES YOUNG) 1811–70.

1433. [MS. in the hand of Sir J. Y. Simpson, beginning 'The whole evidence goes to show that the high & whole credit of the practical application of sulphuric ether to anaesthesia in dentistry & surgery pertains to Dr Morton, and was worked out by him in the latter part of 1846'. 2 leaves (3 pages of writing), $9\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ in., undated.]

Endorsed: '... Sent to me (W. O.) by Sir Alex. Simpson'; it is probably the 'supplemental MS.' mentioned in the postscript of his letter dated 31. xi. 14 in no. 1434, with which this is bound.

1434. [Correspondence, MS. & pr., on Simpson's connection with the introduction of anaesthesia, and on Long, from Sir Alex. R. Simpson, Sir W. Osler, Leonard Guthrie, George Foy, Sir R. Douglas Powell, J. Collins Warren &c. The pr. extracts are mainly from the Lancet, 1911 & 1914.] 8° &c. *v. pl.*, (1911–14).

The Osler letters are those dated Oct. 26 and Nov. 16, 1914, to the Lancet.

In vol. lettered: Simpson on Anaesthesia.

1464. Sir James Simpson and Ether in Midwifery Practice. la. 8°. [*Lond.*], (1911).

Extr. fr. Brit. M. J., 1911, i, pp. 1328–9.

Bd. with no. 1434.

SIMPSON (Sir ALEXANDER R[USSELL]) 1835–1916.

1467. The Jubilee of Anæsthetic Midwifery. An inaugural address to the Glasgow Gynecological and Obstetrical Society ... 19 Jan., 1897. 8°. *Edinb.*, (1897).

With portraits &c. Bd. with no. 1434.

1485. [Corrected galley proof of part of Sir J. Y. Simpson's (2nd) letter addressed to Dr. Jacob Bigelow of Boston, April 1870, with corrections and additions in the handwriting of Sir James and of his son Sir Walter.] fol. [*Edinb.*, 1870.]

In the first of two letters from Sir A. R. Simpson in no. 1434, with which this is bound, the writer states that "the corrections are possibly the last scrapes of his [Sir James's] pen".

This Letter was published at Edinb. in 1870, and was reprinted in vol. ii of his Works, 1871.

An. 36 ① - ⑤

① 1434 1434'
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1434

FROM
THE LIBRARY
OF
SIR WILLIAM OSLER, BART.
OXFORD

TELEPHONE - 2580.
TELEGRAMS - "CHLOROFORM."

52 QUEEN STREET,
EDINBURGH. 19/x/14.

Dear Osler,

Having gone over my Uncle's library along with some of my own obstetrico-gynecological [illegible] & the College of Physicians a year or two ago I had really little hope of finding anything of his likely to meet your requirement.

My last child having left the nest last week I began this morning to clear out some

superfluities & came upon a
box with the materials of a kinder-
symphony with W. my children
used to entertain their friends, or
a party of my students or my
ward patients at a time. I
have passed it on to a grandchild
but took out of it the proof
W. I enclose.

You will see it is a corrected
proof of part of the letter Sir James wrote
or rather dictated to Dr. Bigelow of Boston in April
1870 when he was in his

last illness, so that the corrections
are probably the last scraps of
his pen. I see some of the
writing a F.S is in the hand of
his Son Walter, who succeeded to
him in the Baronetcy & Edited
the Second vol. of his fathers works -
the one which contains his
papers on anaesthesia. You
might look at the letter as it
is given on P. 237 of his Memoir.
I am sorry to have only a fragment
to offer you.

But here is something for you to do. Sir Henry Littlejohn passed away lately in a good old age. He was a great collector of books & there must be many of much value in the line of your present in the library he has left. He had a great admiration for Sir James & used to say he was the one man of real genius that he knew. It is more than likely that some of the original Anaesthetic pamphlets are in his collection. His son, Professor Harvey L., lets me tell you that you will be made very welcome to any of Sir Henry's books that would meet

TELEPHONE - 2580.
TELEGRAMS - "CHLOROFORM".

52 QUEEN STREET,
EDINBURGH.

meet your requirements. There may be some in other departments that you would like to possess. Only, of course, he must retain the specially valuable collection of works in their own department of Medical Jurisprudence & Public Health. I didn't ask Harvey Aitken when he thought of this: Maultsby. If you would like to come & look thro' the books I will only too gladly give you a bed & help you & him with the rummage.

Meantime I Enclose my
Astric effort & leave you to
make a Work or a mill of it

Yours very faithfully

A. R. Simpson.

3

TELEPHONE - 2580.
TELEGRAMS - "CHLOROFORM."

52 QUEEN STREET,
EDINBURGH. 31/XI/14.

Dear Osler,

Thanks for the Astruc paper & for your letter.

The latter made me look at the Lancet, where you justly quote Sir James' own final statement. You may like to have a copy of a lecture I gave to the Glasgow Eng. Society which states what I regard as the truth in the historical

setting of the introduction of
anaesthesia into medical practice.
I found when visiting
Hartford a few years ago that
our brethren there still main-
tain that Wells deserves more
credit than Morton whom
he started in business &
who got from Wells the
anaesthetic idea. Wells
had the courage to submit
himself as the first subject

for Experiment in painless surgery. He let a brother dentist extract from him a tooth after when he had put himself asleep with laughing-gas. When he came out of it he said "This makes a new era in surgery".

I send you also another historical lecture - the one in which I referred to Astruc. I expect I can come to London any Wednesday that fits in with your other arrangements.

Having the Lancet in hand
I read Sir Douglas Powell's
address with much interest

Yours very faithfully

A. R. Simpson.

In looking for a copy of the
History of the Chair I came on
the supplement to M.S. W. I also
enclose

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

SIR JAMES Y. SIMPSON AND ANÆSTHESIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In his delightful Harveian Oration Sir R. Douglas Powell attributes the discovery of anæsthesia to Sir James Y. Simpson. By a curious coincidence, on the very day on which I heard the address I received from Sir Alexander Simpson the proof sheets of a letter written in April, 1870, to Dr. Bigelow, of Boston, in which Sir James Simpson repudiates anything so "wild or extravagant" as that he used chloroform as an anæsthetic before ether. Thirteen months had elapsed; and later in the letter, discussing the rival claims of Jackson, Wells, and Morton, he decides in favour of Morton, saying that he was "the gentleman to whom I believe the profession and mankind are really and truly indebted for first reducing into practice the production of insensibility by ether inhalation, with the object of annihilating pain in surgical operations." The splendid work which Sir James Simpson did in those early days can never be forgotten, but it is unjust to his memory to attribute to him, as is so often done in this country, a discovery which had become "the blessed possession of the whole world" (to use a phrase of Professor Welch) before the introduction of chloroform.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Oxford, Oct. 26th, 1914. WILLIAM OSLER.

SIR JAMES Y. SIMPSON AND ANÆSTHESIA. 4

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your issue of to-day Sir William Osler, by his interesting extract from Sir J. Y. Simpson's letter to Dr. Bigelow, shows that Simpson repudiated the suggestion that he had used chloroform as an anæsthetic before ether. Indeed, he could not have done otherwise, for it is on record that he used ether for the first time in midwifery practice on Jan. 19th, 1847, whereas it was not until Nov. 4th of the same year that he introduced chloroform as an anæsthetic to his friends J. M. Duncan and Keith. A graphic account of this celebrated symposium in the "Athens of the North," when chloroform was the fare and not a Chian vintage, has been given by Professor Miller.[1] It is, however, on the question of priority in the use of ether that I venture to address you.

Simpson, according to the extract from his letter quoted by Sir William Osler, after discussing the rival claims of Jackson, Wells, and Morton, decided in favour of Morton. He therefore does not seem to have known in 1870 that Dr. Crawford W. Long, of Athens, Georgia, undoubtedly used sulphuric ether as an anæsthetic during minor operations four years and six months before it was so employed by Morton at the suggestion of Jackson, and nearly three years before Wells used it at Marcy's suggestion, and discarded it in favour of nitrous oxide. Long's first anæsthesia with sulphuric ether was on March 30th, 1842. Morton's first anæsthesia with sulphuric ether was on Sept. 30th, 1846. Wells's first anæsthesia with nitrous oxide gas was on Dec. 11th, 1844. A few days later he experimented on himself with sulphuric ether, but resolved to adhere to nitrous oxide alone. Dr. Marcy, of Martford, in January, 1845, gave the vapour of sulphuric ether to a sailor for the extirpation of a small wen on the side of his head. "The patient was insensible and the operation successful, but Marcy after this experiment still advised Wells to stick to the gas as being more agreeable and perhaps safer than ether."

For the evidence on the whole matter reference may be made to a paper by Dr. J. Marion Sims, New York, in the *Virginia Medical Monthly*, May, 1877, a reprint of which is in the library of the Royal Society of Medicine. It is fair to mention that the discovery of sulphuric either as an anæsthetic by Marcy, Jackson, and Morton was made without knowledge of Long's work. Long's fame was confined to the circle of a small country town. He waited for the opportunity—which never came—of performing some major operation under ether before communicating his experiences to the scientific world. It was not until 1853, when Morton and the friends of Wells and Jackson were clamouring for State recognition and reward for their labours, that Crawford W. Long made good his claim to priority in bestowing the gift which has since become "the blessed possession of the whole world."

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

LEONARD GUTHRIE.

Upper Berkeley-street, W., Oct. 31st, 1914.

[1] Surgical Experiences of Chloroform. 1848–49

A MEMORIAL TO DR. C. W. LONG. 5

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A letter just received from the eldest daughter of Dr. C. W. Long tells me that the University of Pennsylvania, of which Dr. C. W. Long was a graduate, proposes to place in its medical school a bronze memorial medallion of her father. The unveiling ceremony is to take place on March 30th, 1912. The Provost of the University (Dr. Smith) "believes that for the purpose in mind, that of accentuating our recognition of Dr. Long's achievement, the anniversary of the first use of ether in surgery (March 30th), will be the most suitable date."

The plaster model of the medallion, which is much admired, is the work of a medical graduate of the University, Dr. R. Tait McKenzie, who enjoys more than a local reputation as a sculptor.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

July 24th, 1911. GEORGE FOY.

Correspondence. 6

"Audi alteram partem."

SIR JAMES Y. SIMPSON AND ANÆSTHESIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I overlooked the courteous letter of Sir William Osler in THE LANCET of Oct. 31st correcting my reference to Sir James Y. Simpson as the discoverer of anæsthetics. The illustrious name of Simpson jumped to my mind in illustration of the point I wished to make, and at the moment I forgot that he had been anticipated with regard to ether. The interesting letter, again, of Dr. Leonard Guthrie in your issue of Nov. 7th corrects the Regius professor, and the two letters together are an additional exemplification of the point I wished to make that the discovery was due, was in the air, and focussed to practical usefulness almost simultaneously by several able experimenters. It seems incontestably shown by Dr. Marion Sims's article referred to by Dr. Guthrie that whereas nitrous oxide had been suggested as an anæsthetic by Sir Humphry Davy at the very commencement of the nineteenth century, the subsequent order of precedence in the discovery of various anæsthetics would seem to be Long (sulphuric ether) 1842, Wells (nitrous oxide) 1844, Morton (sulphuric ether) 1846, and Simpson (chloroform) 1847.

I still think that Simpson was the introducer of anæsthetics for general use in midwifery and in surgery, and it was not until his use of chloroform was established that disputes arose as to whom the reward of the discovery was due.

It is incidentally to be noted from the same source that the excitant properties of ether had been long known and utilised in America, and that on one occasion Dr. Wilhite had, in 1839, accidentally pushed the drug to the degree of extreme narcotism in the case of a negro.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Portland-place, Nov. 9th, 1914. R. DOUGLAS POWELL.

LONG AND ANÆSTHESIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In my brief note in THE LANCET of Oct. 31st I was not discussing the history of anæsthesia but referring only to Sir James Y. Simpson's relation to the subject. Long's claims are an old story, which anyone may read at length in Dr. Hugh Young's article in the Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin, Vol. VIII., p. 174. Everyone will, I think, agree with the following judgment of Professor Welch:—

"The honour of making the first trial of anæsthetic inhalation in surgical operations belongs to Dr. Crawford W. Long, a respected and honorable country doctor, then living in Jefferson, Jackson County, Ga., who, in March, 1842, removed painlessly a small tumour from the neck of James M. Venable, anæsthetised by ether. He seems to have performed at least eight minor surgical operations during the next four years upon patients under the influence of ether. Dr. Long is necessarily deprived of the larger honour which would have been his due had he not delayed publication of his experiments with ether until several years after the universal acceptance of surgical anæsthesia. It is also to be regretted that his published details of the mode of administering the ether and the depth of the anæsthesia are so meagre and unsatisfactory. While the accepted rule that scientific discovery dates from publication is a wise one, we need not in this instance withhold from Dr. Long the credit of independent and prior experiment and discovery, but we cannot assign to him any influence upon the historical development of our knowledge of surgical anæsthesia or any share in the introduction to the world at large of the blessings of this matchless discovery."

Surgical anæsthesia as a practical procedure dates from Oct. 16th, 1846, when William Morton, in the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, gave ether to Gilbert Abbott, upon whom Dr. John Collins Warren performed a painless operation.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Oxford, Nov. 16th, 1914. WILLIAM OSLER.

15 Upper Berkeley Street,
Portman Square W.

13/11 14

TELEPHONE 1623 PADDINGTON.

15, UPPER BERKELEY STREET,
PORTMAN SQUARE. W.

Dear Sir William Osler,

Sir J. Y. Simpson and anaesthesia.

Douglas Powell says in the Lancet today that my letter of Nov. 7th "Corrects the Regius Professor"!

Obviously, it does nothing of the kind — It only points out that Simpson's conclusion that Morton was the first to use Ether as an anaesthetic

was wrong. If you
think I might to write to
the Laurel Wray this, I will
do it at once

Sincerely yours

Leonard Guthrie

my life out here". One can only hope that all these gallant young fellows have felt as he did.

Sincerely yours

Leonard Guthrie

9

14/11 ~~10~~
19

TELEPHONE 1623 PADDINGTON.

15, UPPER BERKELEY STREET,
PORTMAN SQUARE. W.

Dear Sir William Osler,

So glad you will set matters aright in the Lancet. Douglas Powell made me feel hot all over. - All the same, I did want to draw you into telling us some more.

I have not the faintest idea whether Massie's & Dixon's line is equatorial or commercial.

The meeting of the Hist. Section is on Wednesday 18th not Thursday - I hear that -

Ernest Clarke, Alfred Perceval Graves & R. Ash King are coming to hear Crawford - paper - They will have to be welcomed from the Chair -

I expect poor Norman Moore will be there. It would not be like him to stay away -

It is terrible to hear almost every day of the sorrow of our friends - Yet I was told that A. W. Pollard's son wrote to his parents on the eve of his last fight:- "If I am killed it will comfort you whenever that I have had the time of

14
19

PS. The Vesal. Celebration must be off for the present - but I think we shall have enough material for our meetings -

THE DISCOVERY OF CHLOROFORM.

We learn from Mr. Alexander Spence, member of the Pharmaceutical Society and ex-bailie of the Royal Burgh of Linlithgow, that it is proposed to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Mr. David Waldie, who suggested the use of chloroform as an anaesthetic to Sir James Simpson. There has been a great deal of misunderstanding and controversy about this matter, and it is difficult, as it usually is in such matters, to get at the exact truth. We took considerable trouble to ascertain the facts in preparing an article on the history of anaesthesia which appeared in the JOURNAL of October 17th, 1896. Of the original experimenters, the only survivor at that time was the late Dr. George Keith, who wrote characteristically that it would be better if the whole business were buried in oblivion! Simpson's own account is as follows: "Latterly, in order to avoid, if possible, some of the inconveniences pertaining to sulphuric ether, particularly its disagreeable and persistent smell, its occasional tendency to irritation of the bronchi during its first inspirations, and the large quantity of it required to be used (more especially in protracted cases of labour), I have tried upon myself and others the inhalation of different other volatile fluids, with the hope that some one of them might be found to possess the advantages of ether without its disadvantages. For this purpose I selected for experiment and have inhaled several chemical liquids of a more fragrant or agreeable odour, such as chloride of hydrocarbon, etc. Then Mr. Waldie, a Linlithgowshire man, first named perchloride of formyle as worthy, among others, of a trial." Dr. Jacob Bigelow, of Boston, and Mr. Jacob Bell, a well-known London pharmacist, had both previously tried chloric ether, and Mr. Bell's experiments had been so successful that Mr. Lawrence used it in surgical operations. Bell, however, failed to recognize that it was the chloroform in the chloric ether which produced anaesthesia. Mr. Waldie, who was then connected with the Apothecaries' Company at Liverpool, seems to have guessed that chloroform was the active agent, and he promised to procure some for Simpson. There was, however, some delay in carrying the promise into effect, and in the meantime Simpson, who was not a man to let the grass grow under his feet, got some chloroform from Messrs. Duncan and Flockhart, of Edinburgh, and forthwith began to experiment with it on himself and his assistants, George Keith, Matthews Duncan, and others. The first trial of chloroform was made in Simpson's house on November 4th, 1847, and Miss Eva Blantyre Simpson, in her *Life* of her famous father, quotes the following passage from a letter written by him to Mr. Waldie: "I am sure you will be delighted to see part of the good results of our hasty conversation. I had the chloroform for several days in the house before trying it, as after seeing it such a heavy unvolatile-like fluid, I despaired of it, and went on dreaming about others. The first night we took it, Dr. Duncan, Dr. Keith, and I all tried it simultaneously, and were all 'under the table' in a minute or two."[1] Let Mr. Waldie have all the credit of having suggested the use of chloroform. We therefore hope that the movement to place a bronze tablet, with a suitable inscription, on the house in Linlithgow where he lived, will receive the support of the medical profession. It is somewhat unfortunate, however, that in recent years exaggerated claims have been made on Mr. Waldie's behalf. He did not discover chloroform, which as a chemical substance was identified independently by Soubeiran in 1831, and Liebig in 1832. Nor was he the first to discover its anaesthetic properties. On March 8th, 1847, J. P. Flourens read a paper before the Académie des Sciences on the effects of chloroform on the lower animals, but as in the case of Humphry Davy's discovery of the pain-subduing power of nitrous oxide gas in 1800, no notice

[1] For a full account of the discovery of chloroform see BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, October 17th, 1896.

or even showed that chloroform possessed anaesthetic properties, however, it is certain that its use in surgery and obstetrics was established by Simpson, but for whose brilliant and strenuous advocacy the agent would in all probability never have gained a footing in medical practice. It was his daemonic force that beat down all opposition, and it must be remembered that he had many powers of darkness—within as well as without the profession—to battle against. Therefore, James Young Simpson is truly entitled to be called the discoverer of chloroform.

THE WELFARE OF THE DEAF.

In the third of the series of lectures which Dr. Kerr Love, of Glasgow, is delivering at the Royal Sanitary Institute, under the auspices of the National Bureau for Promoting the General Welfare of the Deaf, the speaker claimed that if deafness was to be prevented there must be decent and healthy conditions for the children of the poor during the first years of life. Like a plant or other young animal, they must have room to grow, and simple, clean, and free conditions of life. This was the first step for the prevention of infantile or sporadic congenital deafness. This view was based on an inquiry into the home conditions of the inmates of the Glasgow Institution for the Deaf, numbering 180. The children whose homes were in Glasgow numbered 76, and in these homes grave conditions of overcrowding existed, the average number of inmates to each apartment being 3.145. Dr. Kerr Love did not claim that overcrowding was itself a cause of deafness, but that it connoted various unfavourable circumstances and direct causes, such as uncontrolled use of alcohol, parental neglect, and untreated syphilitic disease. It was to untreated syphilis that he pointed as the probable cause of a vast proportion of all cases of deafness observed during the first months of life, and he supported this suggestion by some twenty family records relating to cases in which the Wassermann test had been applied to every living child, and whenever possible to the mother. In these twenty families there had been 167 pregnancies, 93 children being still alive, and 74 had died in childhood, or had been born dead. Among the 93 living children as many as 30 were either deaf or blind, while many others presented, apart from a positive Wassermann reaction, other evidences of syphilitic inheritance. Dr. Kerr Love also suggested that untreated syphilis in the parents and unrecognized syphilis in the children probably lay at the root of much of the meningitis to which so many children succumbed. The remedy which he put forward was notification of syphilis whenever it appeared in children, followed by the immediate treatment of both mother and children. Even if fresh legislation were necessary for the purpose the cause was urgent enough to warrant it, but as a matter of fact recent legislation had placed the machinery required ready to hand. "Like most of my profession," he said, "I have many faults to find with the National Insurance Act. But maternity benefit will be claimed, even for dead-born children, and for all children who die shortly after birth; and if the Commissioners insist of a certificate of the cause of death, the syphilitic families will be discovered, and without any public disclosure of the reason for the step, treatment will be instituted which will counteract the poison in the blood of the mother, and will save the children of the future. The disease is very amenable to treatment, and it is because it is untreated that it passes down to the children."

PHARMACY REGULATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND.

In the autumn session of the House of Representatives of New Zealand this year two new clauses were introduced into a Pharmacy Bill then under its consideration. Briefly summed up, they made it an offence for a registered chemist to pay to any medical practitioner any money or

We learn from Mr. [illegible] Pharmaceutical Society and ex-bailie of the Royal Burgh of Linlithgow, that it is proposed to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Mr. David Waldie, who suggested the use of chloroform as an anaesthetic to Sir James Simpson. There has been a great deal of misunderstanding and controversy about this matter, and it is difficult, as it usually is in such matters, to get at the exact truth. We took considerable trouble to ascertain the facts in preparing an article on the history of anaesthesia which appeared in the JOURNAL of October 17th, 1896. Of the original experimenters, the only survivor at that time was the late Dr. George Keith, who wrote characteristically that it would be better if the whole business were buried in oblivion! Simpson's own account is as follows: "Latterly, in order to avoid, if possible, some of the inconveniences pertaining to sulphuric ether, particularly its disagreeable and persistent smell, its occasional tendency to irritation of the bronchi during its first inspirations, and the large quantity of it required to be used (more especially in protracted cases of labour), I have tried upon myself and others the inhalation of different other volatile fluids, with the hope that some one of them might be found to possess the advantages of ether without its disadvantages. For this purpose I selected for experiment and have inhaled several chemical liquids of a more fragrant or agreeable odour, such as chloride of hydrocarbon, etc. Then Mr. Waldie, a Linlithgowshire man, first named perchloride of formyle as worthy, among others, of a trial." Dr. Jacob Bigelow, of Boston, and Mr. Jacob Bell, a well-known London pharmacist, [illegible]

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58 BEACON ST.

Boston, Mass., U. S. A.,

Nov. 27, 1914.

My dear Osler:-

I read with much interest your note in the Lancet for October 31st, 1914, referring to Sir James Y. Simpson and anaesthesia.

I presume Sir R. Douglas Powell's attributing the discovery to Sir James came about in this wise. Early in the '70's Dr. Henry J. Bigelow was much interested in the history of anaesthesia and I think was preparing a centennial article for the American Journal of Medical Science. In looking up what the Encyclopedia Brittanica had to say on the subject, he was surprised to find the following, "Anaesthesia, see chloroform." This was all, apparently, that the great English authority had to say about a word which had been coined by Oliver Wendell Holmes to meet the occasion of the first use of ether at the Massachusetts General Hospital on October 16, 1846.

It was about the date to which you refer that Dr. Bigelow asked me to write to Mr. Lister, then at Edinborough, in reference to preparing an article in which I think he intended to take Sir James Simpson to task. Curiously enough the day before I read your note, I placed my hand accidentally on Lister's reply to me, in which he said that, owing to the very serious illness of Simp-

Sir William Osler, Bart.

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ready to hand. "Like n
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PHARMACY REGUL

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Briefly summed up, they
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son, he thought it inadvisable to do anything about it as that time. This was in 1870.

At the time of our Jubilee of Anaesthesia, Dr. A. R. Simpson of Edinburgh, in regretting his inability to be present at the celebration, wrote to me, saying, "Boston does well to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the day on which Dr. Morton first gave a public demonstration of the practibility of surgical anaesthesia, and so put into the hands of his professional brethren the means of saving the patient from untold suffering."

I well recall an interesting conversation I had with a member of the staff of the Massachusetts General Hospital when we were making preparations for our Jubilee in '96, who asked me whether chloroform was used in London before ether had been in Boston. I replied to him that "I do not blame you, one of the younger members of the staff, for such an error, but I blame the hospital for not having heralded to the world what is its greatest historical asset." Hence the significance of our Jubilee and the subsequent and now well-established function of **Ether Day.**

The number of the Lancet containing Guthrie's article for November 7th has just come to hand. I think Dr. Welch's paper states the case very fairly in regard to Long. Associated intimately as I was with many of those concerned in the introduction of surgical anaesthesia, I never heard of Long's name even until all of them, except Dr. Bigelow, were dead.

Sincerely yours,

J. Collins Warren

Sir William Osler, Bart.

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